

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC
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I hereby certify that this correspondence for Application No. 10/627,589 is being electronically transmitted to Technology Center 3738, via EFS-WEB, on June 5, 2006.

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|------------------------------------|---------------|
| <u>/David H. Brinkman/</u> | <u>6/5/06</u> |
| David H. Brinkman, Reg. No. 40,532 | Date |

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*OK to enter
JW
8-1-06*

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Applicant: | Stephen D. Kuslich et al. |
| Serial Number: | 10/627,589 |
| Filed: | July 25, 2003 |
| Group Art Unit: | 3738 |
| Confirmation No.: | 2967 |
| Examiner: | Willse, David H. |
| Title: | LAPAROSCOPIC SPINAL STABILIZATION SURGICAL METHOD |
| Attorney Ref.: | ZMS-IF15US6 |

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

June 5, 2006

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AFTER FINAL AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action mailed on April 5, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.